

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1064.P004PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/SG03/00036	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 February 2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 2 April 2002
Applicant REUTERS LIMITED et al		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 3

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ None of the figures

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SG03/00036

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt. Cl. ⁷: G06F 17/30, 17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

USPTO Web Patent database, WPAT, Esp@cenet, "metadata, metabase, database, knowledge, management etc."

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6078924 A (AINSBURY et al.) 20 June 2000 Figure 1, column 7 lines 36 to 42, column 8 lines 45 to 48, column 18 lines 8 to 9 etc.	1-52
X	WO 02/13065 A (EPSTEIN) 14 February 2002 Figures 3 and 4, page 11 lines 5 to 19 and page 43 lines 8 to 21 etc.	1-52
X	US 6128624 A (PAPIERNIAK et al.) 3 October 2000 Figures 9, 10 and 15, column 17 lines 37 to 38, column 4 line 51 to column 5 line 20, column 22 lines 34 to 37, column 22 lines 61 to 65, column 19 lines 33 to 37 etc.	1-52
X	US 6055567 A (GANESAN et al.) 25 April 2000 Column 10 lines 18 to 23 for example.	31-41
X	US 6044374 A (NESAMONEY et al.) 28 March 2000 Column 2 lines 51 to 54, column 4 lines 13 to 27, column 4 lines 35 to 38 and column 2 lines 7 to 25 etc.	31-41

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
23 May 2003Date of mailing of the international search report
30 MAY 2003Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/SG03/00036

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US 6078924		AU 24900/99		CA 2318847	EP 1049995
		WO 9939286			
WO 200213065		AU 200180998		US 2002049738	
US 6128624		NONE			
US 6055567		AU 200022454		CA 2301331	EP 1136923
		NZ 503498		ZA 200001492	US 6334116
US 6044374		WO 9926170			
END OF ANNEX					

From the:
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: Lawrence Y D Ho & Ass Pte Ltd 30 Bideford Road #07-01 Thongsia Building Singapore 229922		RECEIVED 26 SEP 2003 PCT WRITTEN OPINION (PCT Rule 66)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 1064.P004PCT/ADR/cch		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 26 SEP 2003	REPLY DUE within TWO MONTHS from the above date of mailing
International Application No. PCT/SG03/00036	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 24 February 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 2 April 2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ G06F 17/30, 17/60			
Applicant REUTERS LIMITED et al		DOCKETED (fmy) due date:	due date:

- This written opinion is the **first** drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
- This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basis of the opinion
II	<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority
III	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of unity of invention
V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain documents cited
VII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain defects in the international application
VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain observations on the international application
- The **FINAL DATE** by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is:
2 August 2004
- The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

When? See the **Reply Due** date indicated above. However, the Australian Patent Office will not establish the Report before the earlier of (i) a response being filed, or (ii) one month before the **Final Date** by which the international preliminary examination report must be established. The Report will take into account any response (including amendments) filed before the Report is established. **If no response is filed by 1 month before the Final Date**, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.

Applicants wishing to have the benefit of a further opinion (if needed) before the report is established should ensure that a response is filed at least **3 months before the Final Date** by which the international preliminary examination report must be established.

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3.
For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer P. THONG Telephone No. (02) 6283 2128
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I. Basis of the opinion**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

** Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-52	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-52	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-52	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations

D1 = US 6078924
D2 = WO 02/13065
D3 = US 6128624
D4 = US 6055567
D5 = US 6044374

Each of the citations D1 to D3 is considered relevant to the subject matter of the claims as a whole. Citation D4, like citation D5, is relevant to the subject matter of claims 31 to 41.

NOVELTY (N): Claims 1-52

Claim 1, as one example, is directed to a metabase management system comprising

- A metabase for storing metadata in relation to
 - (a) data of a database
 - (b) information source
 - (c) information user and
- metadata applications that use the metadata in the metabase to manage knowledge aspects of the database.

Citation D1, as one example, discloses an object-oriented database 20 (column 7 lines 36 to 37) and an object-oriented metabase information store 23 (column 7 lines 52 to 56) for storing

- (a) metadata in relation to data eg metadata on data format and relationships (column 8 lines 23 to 26 and line 47)
- (b) metadata in relation to information source (column 8 lines 45 to 46)
- (c) metadata in relation to information user (column 8 line 46).

The citation discloses metadata subsystems 26, 27, 31 (metadata applications) that use the above metadata to manage, redefine and update various knowledge aspects ie to manage, redefine and update complex relationships and derivative relationship of items of database 20 (column 10 lines 1 to 22).

In view of such disclosures, the subject matter of the claims cannot be considered novel.

INVENTIVE STEP (IS): Claims 1-52

As above.